

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 NEA-14 EUR-25 DRC-01

SAJ-01 /152 W

----- 130967

R 240450Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1957

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: KIRK FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

REFS: (A) CANBERRA 3891 (NOTAL)

(B) WELLINGTON 1899

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. KIRK DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION ANZUS IN HIS REFERENCED SPEECH. WHICH WAS BILLED AS A CONTINUATION OF REMARKS MADE AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE DID MENTION ANZUS. IN OUR VIEW THE SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY, IS THAT HIS REFERENCE ONLY TO A SERIES OF ARRANGEMENTS ALLOWED KIRK TO ALLUDE TO GNZ'S SOMEWHAT UNPOPULAR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN SEATO WITHOUT ACTUALLY NAMING THE ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE RSA CONVENTION IN 1973 KIRK SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ANZUS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE ANZUS TREATY PROVIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA WOULD SUPPORT US IF NEW ZEALAND WERE EVER DIRECTLY ATTACKED. BUT IN OTHER EVENTUALITIES WE HAVE TO STAND ON OUR OWN TWO FEET; AND THAT IS WHAT THE NIXON DOCTRINE IS ALL ABOUT. END QUOTE.

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3. KIRK BEGAN THIS YEAR'S SPEECH BY SAYING THAT QUOTE
TODAY I WANT TO CONTINUE THE REMARKS I MADE AT THE
LAST CONFERENCE IN WHICH THE RELATIONSHIP OF DEFENCE
POLICIES TO OVERALL FOREIGN POLICIES WERE DISCUSSED IN
THE LIGHT OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND ASIAN REGIONS.
END QUOTE. THE PORTION OF THIS YEAR'S SPEECH CONCERNING
DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWS: QUOTE WE HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL IN WELDING TOGETHER DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICIES
IN A WAY THAT ENSURES THAT IN PEACE THE DEFENCE FORCES OF
THIS COUNTRY COOPERATE WITH AND SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN AND
EXPAND THE VALUE OF THOSE THINGS WE ATTEMPT TO DO THROUGH
FOREIGN POLICY. WE HAVE STRENGTHENED AND DEVELOPED OUR
ASSOCIATION WITH COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
WE HAVE BUILT UP OUR DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH MANY OF THOSE
COUNTRIES BY MEANS OF MUTUAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE, BY ATTACH-
MENTS AND BY JOINT EXERCISES. THAT DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP
PROVIDES A USEFUL ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT I WANT TO SAY.
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC WE HAVE A CLEARCUT
SERIES OF DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDING FOR EXCHANGES,
FOR TRAINING AND FOR SUPPORT SUCH AS WE HAVE IN THE ARRANGE-
MENTS WITH MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. ON THE OTHER HAND WE
HAVE HAD A MORE DIFFUSE BUT NONETHELESS ABIDING SENSE OF
DEFENCE COMMITMENT WITH OUR OLD COMMONWEALTH FRIENDS AND
THE UNITED STATES; AND THROUGH THEM WITH THE WESTERN
ALLIANCE IN GENERAL. POST-WAR CONSIDERATIONS AND THE COLD
WAR ASSOCIATED NEW ZEALAND VERY CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED
STATES. END QUOTE.

4. ALTHOUGH ANZUS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AND THE
ARRANGEMENT WITH MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE (ANZUK) WAS GIVEN AS
AN EXAMPLE, WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS HAVING SIGNIFICANCE,
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, AS FAR AS ANZUS IS CONCERNED. REFERENCE
TO ANZUK SET THE STAGE FOR KIRK'S STRONG CALL LATER IN THE
SPEECH (REFTEL B) FOR BRITAIN TO REMAIN IN ANZUK. ALSO,
BY MERELY REFERRING TO NEW ZEALAND'S CLEARCUT SERIES OF
DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS IT ALSO ALLOWED HIM TO ALLUDE TO
GNZ'S UNPOPULAR MEMBERSHIP (AT LEAST IN SOME CIRCLES) IN
SEATO.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WELLIN01957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740165-0130
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740618/aaaaaown.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) CANBERRA 3891 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIRK FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, AS, NZ, US, ANZUS, SEATO, (KIRK, NORMAN)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005